

Amendment No. 3 to SB0983

Cohen
Signature of Sponsor

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Date _____

Time _____

Clerk _____

Comm. Amdt. _____

AMEND Senate Bill No. 983*

House Bill No. 817

By inserting the following language as a new, appropriately designated section immediately preceding the effective date section:

SECTION __. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 37, Chapter 1, Part 4, is amended by adding the following language as new, appropriately designated sections:

Section 37-1-415. The general assembly finds and declares that:

(1) Animal cruelty is often a pre-cursor to other types of abusive behavior including child abuse reported pursuant to the provisions of this part; and

(2) Rapid intervention by the appropriate authorities in cases of animal cruelty may lead to a reduction of the number of reported incidents of child abuse and other types of abusive behavior.

Section 37-1-416.

(a) Any licensed veterinary who, in such person's professional capacity, has knowledge of or is called upon to render aid to any animal who is suffering from or has sustained any wound, injury, disability or physical condition shall report such harm immediately if the harm is of such a nature as to reasonably indicate that it has been caused by brutality, abuse or neglect or that, on the basis of available information, reasonably appears to have been caused by brutality, abuse or neglect.

(b) Any such person with knowledge of the type of harm described in subsection (a) shall report it, by telephone or otherwise, to

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the office of the sheriff or the chief law enforcement official of the municipality where the animal is then located.

(c) In addition to those persons required to report pursuant to subsection (a), any other person may make a report if any such person has reasonable cause to believe that an animal is suffering from or has died as a result of such animal cruelty.

Section 37-1-417.

(a) No person required to report harm under § 37-1-416 shall be liable in any civil or criminal action by reason of such report.

(b) No other person making such a report shall be liable in any civil or criminal action by reason of such report if:

- (1) The report was made in good faith; and
- (2) The person reporting the harm did not perpetrate or inflict the abuse or cause the neglect.